

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-07 AID-05 ERDA-07 IO-14 ACDA-10
NRC-07 JUSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TECH IN
SUBJECT: INDIAN PRESS REPORTS JUDICIAL CHALLENGE TO NRC DECISION
ON TARAPUR FUEL; GOI REAFFIRMS TO NUCLEAR WEAPONS POLICY

1. INDIAN PRESS, JULY 1, REPORTED NRC APPROVAL OF
NUCLEAR FUEL SHIPMENT FOR TARAPUR. MOST PAPERS NOTED
THAT THERE MIGHT BE A DELAY IN THE AIR SHIPMENT DUE
TO EFFORTS BY ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS TO OBTAIN A COURT
STAY OF THE NRC DECISION. THE JUNE 30 ISSUE OF "THE
HINDU" SPECULATED THAT "THOUGH THIS STAY ORDER IS
EXPECTED TO BE GRANTED, THE LIKELIHOOD IS THAT IT WILL
BE VACATED AND THE SHIPMENT ALLOWED TO GO THROUGH AFTER
ANOTHER SHORT DELAY." THE NRC DECISION REPORTEDLY CITED
PRESIDENT CARTER'S POLICY THAT A REPEAT OF THE JUNE 1974
DETONATION, EVEN FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES, WOULD
TERMINATE FURTHER US SHIPMENTS. THE NRC REPORTEDLY
NOTED THE ARGUMENT OF ENVIRONMENTALISTS THAT IAEA SAFE-
GUARDS BE PLACED ON ALL INDIAN NUCLEAR FACILITIES, BUT
RULES THAT WHILE THIS WAS "DESIRABLE, PRESENT US
POLICY DOES NOT MANDATE A DENIAL OF EXPORTS TO
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COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE NOT IMPOSED SUCH A SYSTEM...."
THE "STATESMAN'S" WARREN W. UNNA WROTE THAT THE STATE
DEPARTMENT IN ITS ARGUMENT FOR GRANTING THE
EXPORT LICENSE CONTENDED THAT 1) THE US HAD A BINDING
CONTRACT WITH INDIA; 2) INDIA HAD COMPLIED WITH
SAFEGUARD STANDARDS AT TARAPUR; 3) THAT THE DESAI
GOVERNMENT WAS MORE TRUSTWORTHY THAN MRS. GANDHI'S;

AND 4) THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WAS PERSONALLY DETERMINED
TO IMPROVE INDO-US RELATIONS.

2. IN REPLIES TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS IN THE LOK SABHA
JUNE 29 ADDRESSED TO THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE, THE GOI
REAFFIRMED THAT INDIA WOULD NOT PRODUCE NUCLEAR WEAPONS.
THE PRIME MINISTER WAS CITED AS DECLARING THAT THIS
POLICY WAS "IRRESPECTIVE OF WHAT OTHER COUNTRIES MAY
DO." "WE DO NOT VISUALISE A NUCLEAR THREAT AT PRESENT.
GOVERNMENT CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE DEFENCE OF OUR
COUNTRY CAN BE ENSURED BY ADEQUATE MILITARY PREPAREDNESS
BASED ON NON-NUCLEAR WEAPONS. ALL DEVELOPMENTS WHICH
HAVE A BEARING ON OUR SECURITY ARE BEING TAKEN INTO
ACCOUNT IN OUR DEFENCE PLANNING."GOHEEN

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